

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 16-18, 22-25, 29 and 35-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EPO 0 744 788 A1 (Cauderay et al.). Claims 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 20 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cauderay et al. in view of U.S. 2,423,627 (Tinnerman '627). Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cauderay et al. U.S. 2,432,492 (Tinnerman '492), although not applied in a rejection, was held pertinent to the present application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a device for providing electrical contact to an outer conductor of a coaxial cable, the outer conductor having bare segments, the device comprising a base structure adapted to be tensioned around a coaxial cable, the base structure provided with an interior surface and an exterior surface, sealing lips operatively associated with the base structure and extending from the interior surface thereof, the sealing lips for providing a seal between the base structure and a coaxial cable when the base structure is tensioned therearound, a band shaped, electrically conducting contact element attached to the base structure, the band shaped, electrically conducting contact element including at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion integral therewith and biased to extend beyond the sealing lips so that when the base structure is tensioned around a coaxial cable the resilient, electrically

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conducting contact protrusion will rest against the bare segments of the coaxial cable and provide electrical contact with the cable.

None of the applied prior art discloses or suggests the invention as now claimed. Neither Tinnerman '492 nor Tinnerman '627 are adapted to connect to coaxial cables having bare segments as in the invention as claimed.

Cauderay et al. does not disclose the invention as now claimed; namely, a band shaped, electrically conducting contact element attached to a base structure, the band shaped, electrically conducting contact element including at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion *integral with* the contact element. Accordingly, the invention as now claimed cannot be considered anticipated. Nor can it be said Cauderay et al., either alone or in combination with the other prior art or record, suggests the invention as claimed. If anything, the invention in Cauderay et al. teaches away from claimed invention as the separate contact element ("Zwischenstuck 9") of Cauderay et al. is specifically taught to be glued or welded to the contact part ("Schelle 2"). Accordingly, there can be no suggestion in Cauderay et al. for the integral contact protrusion as claimed. Reconsideration of the rejections is therefore requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16-18, 20, 22-26, 29, 30 and 35-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. All of these claims have now been amended or cancelled and it is believed the rejection is now overcome.

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The disclosure has been objected to for various informalities. See page 3, paragraph 8 of the Official Action. These objections are related to the translation of the application. Applicant is presently having the translation of the application reviewed for accuracy and a substitute specification or corrections to the specification will be provided once the review is completed. A revised abstract will also be provided once the translation is reviewed.

The objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R 1.83(a) is believed overcome in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims.

The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed February 11, 2000 has not been considered. Reconsideration is requested for the following reasons. The references not in the English language are characterized in each of the EPO and PCT search reports provided with the IDS of February 11, 2000. These search reports characterize each of the references as being either "X, Y or A" categories thereby meeting applicant's duty under U.S. rules to provide a concise explanation of relevance. If the Examiner requires further assistance, she is encouraged to contact applicant's counsel.

Lastly, it is stated in the Official Action that receipt has been acknowledged of the papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d); however, it is incorrectly stated these priority documents are Italian. The claim of priority for the present application is

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made upon two German applications, application numbers 298 15 063.8 and 198 41 199.5. Confirmation of this claim of priority in the next Official Action is requested.

In view of the above, it is believed the application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification of such is requested.


A check in the amount \$445.00 is attached in payment of the government fee required to extend the due date from March 4, 2001 to June 4, 2001. Small entity status has been previously established by filing of an appropriate declaration.

It is believed that no other fee is due; however, should that determination be incorrect, charge the deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 19-2105 and notify the undersigned in due course.

Should the Examiner have any questions, she is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (amended) A device [to] for providing electrical contact [in electrically conducting manner an electrically conducting part of in particular an elongated, illustratively cylindrical body, for instance a pipe or a] to an outer conductor of a coaxial cable, the outer conductor having bare segments, said device comprising:

a) a base structure adapted to be tensioned around a coaxial cable, said base structure provided with an interior surface and an exterior surface;

b) sealing lips operatively associated with said base structure and extending from said interior surface thereof, said sealing lips for providing a seal between said base structure and a coaxial cable when said base structure is tensioned therearound;

[fitted with a rest surface to rest against the body to be contacted and further fitted with means to implement an electrically conducting contact connection between the body to be contacted and a conductor, for instance a grounding cable, characterized in that the base structure (4) comprises]

c) a band shaped, electrically conducting contact element attached to said base structure, said band shaped, electrically

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conducting contact element including at least one resilient,
electrically conducting contact protrusion [(40) projecting to the
rest surface (42, 44) in such manner that in the assembly position
it will rest against the electrically conducting part (6) of the
body to be contacted (8) and thereby constitutes the contact
means] integral therewith and biased to extend beyond said sealing
lips so that when said base structure is tensioned around a coaxial
cable said resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion
will rest against the bare segments of the coaxial cable and
provide electrical contact therewith.

3.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in
that the - or each -] and wherein said at least one resilient,
electrically conducting contact protrusion [(40)] is metallic.

7.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in
that the] and wherein said base structure [(4)] is flexible.

8.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that the] and wherein said base structure [(4) comprises a] is at least one of a band-shaped or plat-shaped contact element [(10) made of an] constructed from electrically conducting material [, preferably a metal].

11.(amended) Device as claimed in claim [10, characterized in that the - or each -] 1 and wherein said at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion [(40) consists of] is an embossing in [the] said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element.

13.(amended) Device as claimed in claim [10, characterized in that the - or each -] 1 and wherein said at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion [(40)] consists of a blade [(52)] projecting [toward a side of the] away from said base structure interior surface [(4) facing the body to be contacted (8) in the assembly position].

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14.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 13 [, characterized in that the - or each -] and wherein said blade [(52)] is stamped out of [the] said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element [(10)].

16.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 1 [, characterized in that the] and wherein said base structure [(4)] is [designed] configured in such a manner [that in the assembly position it encloses the body] so as to enclose the coaxial cable to be contacted [(8) in particular] in an annular manner [or like a bush].

17.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 1 [, characterized the] and wherein said base structure [(4)] is [designed as] a clamp [which can] adapted to be tensioned around the [body] coaxial cable to be contacted [(8)].

18.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 16 [, characterized in that the - or each -] and wherein said at least one resilient, electrically conducting contact protrusion [(40) consists of] is a radial projection extending from said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element.

20.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 16 [, characterized in that at least two] and wherein additional resilient electrically conducting contact protrusion [(40, 48, 50)] are provided and mounted in mutually spaced manner and in the circumferential direction of [the] said base structure [(4) , preferably] and along one circumferential line.

22.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 16 [, characterized in that the] and wherein said base structure [(4)] is integral and circumferentially open and [at its] includes first and second opposite ends [comprises] each of which a provided with respective brackets [(12, 14)] which are connectable [in the assembly position] .

23.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 22 [, characterized in that the] and wherein said respective brackets [(12, 14) can] adapted to be connected to each other by means of screws [or a clamp].

24.(amended) Device as claimed in claim [8, characterized in that the] 1 and wherein said base structure [(4) comprises] includes an elastic part [(22) of which the side facing the body to be contacted (8) in the assembly position where called for is connected to the] said elastic part having a surface coextensive with said base structure interior surface and adapted for connection to said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element [(10)].

25.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 24 [, characterized in that the] and wherein said elastic part [(22)] is made of an elastic material [constitutes a coating of the] and said band shaped electrically conducting contact element [(10) or in that the contact element (10)] is at least one of imbedded [at least] in said elastic part or secured to an exterior surface thereof [in the elastic material].

26.(amended) Device as claimed in claim 24 [, characterized in that the] said elastic part [material] is an elastomer, in particular a thermoplastic elastomer.

29.(amended) Device as claimed in claim [8, characterized in that the] 1 and wherein said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element [(10)] is fitted with terminals to hook up to a conductor [, for instance a grounding cable (20) in such a manner that the conductor by means of the contact element(10) resting against the body to be contacted (8) in the assembly position can be connected in electrically conducting manner to the body to be contacted (8)].

30.(amended) Device as claimed in claim [22, characterized in that the] 13 and wherein said band shaped, electrically conducting contact element [(10) constitutes the] includes first and second respective brackets [(12, 14) or extends into the brackets (12, 14)] and [in that one bracket (12)] one of said first and second brackets comprises at least one aperture [(16)] and the other of said first and second brackets [bracket (14)]

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comprises at least one threaded borehole [opposite the]
operatively associated with said at least one aperture [(16) in
the assembly position, in such manner that, in the assembly
position, the brackets, (12, 14) by means of] and further
including at least one electrically conducting metal screw [18)]
adapted for passing through [the] said at least one aperture
[(16)] and engaging [the] said at least one threaded borehole
[, can be connected to each other and to the conductor,
illustratively a grounding cable (20), and thereby form the hookup
means] for providing a connection therebetween.

39.(amended) Device as claimed in claim [36, characterized
in that the sealing means comprise] 1 and further including
sealing surfaces [constituted by] , said sealing surfaces
consisting of mutually facing interior surfaces of [the bracket
(12, 14) in the assembly position and] cooperating bracket
members, said cooperating bracket members extending from said base
member and at least one of made of an elastic material or
[sandwiching] adapted to sandwich an elastic sealing element
therebetween [between them in the] when in an assembly position
[, the sealing surfaces in the assembly position resting in

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sealing manner against each other or against the sealing body and tightly adjoining the sealing lips in the circumferential direction of the base structure (4)].